

MHSU Patient Care: Dr. Ed Howard's Key Messages

- 1) **Know about SSWIS!** This is Comox Valley's MHSU "[Single Session Walk in Service](#)" - Walk-in, Phone-in, No appointment required, brief solution-focused coaching/counselling service provided by a mental health nurse.
- 2) The best way to ensure you will receive communication from Comox Valley MHSU is to send a brief referral regarding your patient utilizing the [Comox Valley Referral form](#). Although patients are able to self-refer, you will likely not receive any MHSU feedback due to consent and administrative reasons.
- 3) For referral to the [Psychiatry Collaborative Care Clinic](#), you can also utilize the Comox Valley [Referral form](#), however it helps the psychiatrist tremendously if you can **include past medical history and medication trials**. This can be indicated on the referral form, or you can attach a separate referral letter with all these details on it. This is for a one-time psychiatric consult.
- 4) For questions regarding a possible diagnosis of adult autism or learning disabilities, this is not an appropriate referral for the Psychiatry Collaborative Care Clinic. These patients will need to be referred for a private psychologist assessment.
- 5) Still have questions about MHSU services and supports? Phone MHSU for questions, guidance or further program info. **(250) 331-8524**